

EMPLOYMENT FORECAST: BUSINESS TEACHER



The Georgetown Public Policy Institute (2013) projects occupations in sales and office support will see the largest increase in number of jobs by 2020, while managerial and professional office occupations ranked as the 4th largest growth area. Business educators play a critical role in preparing individuals for these careers. By 2022, the U.S. Department of Labor projects the number of teaching jobs in career and technical education, of which business education is a part, will increase by 9.0%

In the business education field specifically, half of all business educators teaching today are expected to retire in the next decade.

Need for Business Educators. The business world is calling for a *renaissance worker*: Someone with the smarts to solve problems rationally and effectively, whether on a local or national level; the literacy and flexibility to successfully deal with ever-changing technology; and the

creativity and leadership to help companies compete in the world economy.

Business relies on business education teachers to help train this kind of worker. Business educators understand what is important to the business community and which skills are essential for success on the job. Because they engage real-world experience and have regular contact with local employers, business educators are in a perfect position to transfer knowledge of these skills to students and help them become competent and successful.

Business educators are also needed to teach the courses that help students succeed in their personal lives. Students learn how to understand and make intelligent decisions about their own finances. As active participants in civic life, business students can contribute this knowledge of economics to the communities and organizations important to them.

Salaries. The National Education Association reported beginning teachers earn an average starting salary of \$36,141 (2013). The national median annual salary for all teachers is \$55,050, with the top 10 percent of teachers earning more than \$85,690 (*Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 2014-2015).

Of course, salaries vary by state and school district. The longer you teach and the more education you have, the more you are paid. Taking on additional responsibilities, such as advising student groups and extracurricular activities or serving as a department chair, can also increase your salary.

